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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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09/052,278 03/30/98 ROBIN

M MSI-206USC1

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EXAMINER

HARRISON, C

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2672

DATE MAILED:

06/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

# Office Action Summary

Application No.  
09/052,278

Applicant(s)  
Robin

Examiner  
Chante' Harrison

Art Unit  
2672



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on Apr 23, 2001
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, and 5-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2 and 4 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

## Attachment(s)

- 15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_
- 16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 17) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_ 20) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is responsive to communications: Amendment C, filed on 4/23/01.
2. Claims 1-8 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 3 are independent claims. Claims 5-8 have been added.

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***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McLaughlin et al., U.S. Patent 5,570,108, 10/1996, 345/146.

As per independent claim 1, McLaughlin discloses providing a plurality of controls on a screen of a video display device (FIGS. 2-4), identifying a control group (col. 7, ll. 30 et seq.), the group comprised of at least two controls associated in a data structure (FIG. 4 ' 48-50', '60-63'; col 7, ll. 39-48), representing the control group with a single status indicator (col. 7, ll. 30 et seq.) and directing the activation of the controls of the control group (col. 7-8, ll. 30-22), but fails to specifically disclose group activation by storing an active value. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to use the disclosure of McLaughlin because he teaches associating a group of controls and polling the status of the display to identify user commands. The polling of the display status implies that the activation/deactivation of controls, as a group or individually, are stored.

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As per independent claim 3, McLaughlin discloses a memory (FIG. 1 '12'), but fails to specifically disclose a control grouping identifier contained in memory, the identifier having an active state and an inactive state and the identifier represents the controls of the control grouping. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the disclosure of McLaughlin because he discloses the use of memory (FIG. 1 '12') and polling the display status to effect user commands (col. 8, ll. 10 et seq.) to activate a group of controls (col. 7, ll. 36 et seq.).

As per dependent claim 5, McLaughlin discloses storing an active value in a status indicator for each control (col. 7-8, ll. 30-23).

As per dependent claim 6, McLaughlin discloses masking the active value in the status indicator to deactivate the control (col. 7, ll. 49 et seq.).

As per dependent claim 7, the rejections as applied to dependent claims 5 and 6 are included herein.

As per dependent claim 8, McLaughlin fails to specifically disclose a control grouping identifier contained in memory, the identifier having an active state and an inactive state and the identifier represents the controls of the control grouping. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the disclosure of McLaughlin because he discloses the use of

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memory (FIG. 1 '12') and polling the display status to effect user commands (col. 8, ll. 10 et seq.) to activate a group of controls (col. 7, ll. 36 et seq.).

Claim 2 and 4 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-8 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Citation of Pertinent Prior Art***

1. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

McLaughlin et al., U.S. Patent 5,499,040, 3/1996, 345/146

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*Conclusion*

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**or faxed to:**

(703) 305-9051, (for formal communications intended for entry)

**OR:**

(703) 308-6606 (for informal or draft communications, please label  
"PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2021 Crystal  
Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chante' Harrison whose telephone number is (703) 305-3937. She can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Michael Razavi, can be reached on (703) 305-4713.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

Chante' Harrison

June 13, 2001



**MATTHEW LUU  
PRIMARY EXAMINER**